

IN THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet (1)

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

The drawings have been objected to as not being in compliance with U.S. patent practice and procedure; the title of the invention has been objected to as not being clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed; the disclosure has been objected to as containing informalities; Claims 1, 3, and 10-13 have been objected to as containing informalities; Claims 1, 2, 10, and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Kaji et al. and Claims 3-9, 12, and 13 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 2 and 3 have been canceled, without prejudice, while new Claims 14 and 15 have been added and thus, Claims 1 and 3-15 remain active.

Considering first then the Examiner's objection to Figure 1 as not including functional labels for each circuit block, substitute Figure 1 is submitted herewith.

Considering next then the Examiner's objection to the title and to the disclosure in the specification, appropriate amendments have been made to the title and to the specification as requested.

Considering next then the objection to Claims 1, 3, and 10-13, it is to be noted that the claims indicated by the Examiner have been appropriately corrected.

Lastly, considering then the Examiner's objection of Claims 1, 2, 10, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, it is to be noted that in view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 3-9, 12, and 13, Claim 1 has now been amended to include the language of Claims 2 and 3 which have now been canceled, without prejudice. It is therefore submitted

that Claim 1 as well as all claims dependent therefrom now merit indication of allowability with the same being hereby respectfully requested.

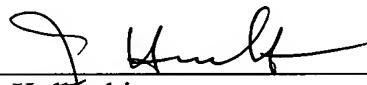
Applicants further note that new Claims 14 and 15 have been included in the amendment wherein new Claim 14 claims a detection area selection device configured to select a detection area from either the entire area photographed by the imaging device or the zoom area selected by the zoom area of selection device, if the zoom area is selected by the zoom area of selection device. A review of Kaji et al. as well as the remaining references of record fails to indicate a teaching or disclosure of these limitations. Kaji et al. instead only discloses that the white balance control device is adapted to be capable of selecting whether the feature detection area selected by the feature detection area selecting device and the zoom area selected by the zoom area of selection device are an identical area are not. More particularly, the control area setting for the white balance is selected so as to be identical to the zoom area to optimize the white balance for the selected area such as the area containing baseball players. However, Kaji et al. fails to teach or suggest the above-mentioned features recited in amended Claim 1. More particularly, even when the zoom area is selected, the white balance control can be performed based on the results of the feature detection of the entire area of an image signal from the imaging device. It is therefore submitted that Claims 14 and 15 patentably define over Kaji et al. as well as the remaining references of record.

Applicants further note that submitted herewith is an Information Disclosure Statement the purpose of submitting references which were cited in an Office Action dated May 21, 2007, a copy of which is filed. Applicants note in this regard that these documents are therefore submitted within three months of the date of mailing and the same from the Japanese Patent Office and thus certification as mentioned in the Information Disclosure Statement is warranted.

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

  
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James J. Kulbaski  
Registration No. 34,648

James D. Hamilton  
Registration No. 28,421

Attorneys of Record

Customer Number  
**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413-2220  
(OSMMN 03/06)

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